Demonstration at Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore

1318. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether anti-Hindi demonstrators recently entered the Doordarshan Kendra in Bangalore and disrupted the relay of the popular serial Ramayana; and

(b) what were the demands of the agitators?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Six members of Kannadda Artists and Writers Guild forced their way into the Transmitter Hall of Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore on 31-1-88 and caused a major breakdown during the telecast of 'Ramayana' Programme.

(b) The demands of the demonstrators were for more Kannadda Programmes, Kannadda Feature Films for Kannadda speaking people and also recruitment of Kannadingas to various posts in the Kendra.

Employment of children in Hazardous activities

1319. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite all the laws regulating employment of children, children of tender age continue to work in match and firework factories and in mines, in callous disregard of the safety norms; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken and directions issued by the Central Government to prevent this rampant exploitation of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) It is a fact that inspite of the laws prohibiting employment of children in certain employments, cases of children continuing to work in such employments have been detected.

(b) The State Governments have been addressed to stringently enforce the legal provisions relating to prohibition of child labour.

Utilisation of Central fund by Madhya Pradesh

1320. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Funds provided to the Housing Board of Madhya Pradesh have not been fully utilised and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what were the funds allotted and how much have been already utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Government does not provide any financial assistance direct to the Housing Boards. Central financial assistance is given to the State Governments/U.T. Admns. as 'block loans' and 'block grants' without being tied to any particular scheme for head of development.

However, the HUDCO, the premier financing institution at the central level, has sanctioned 360 schemes in Madhya Pradesh with a project cost of Rs. 26067 lakhs and loan assistance of Rs. 17276 lakhs which envisages construction of 91822 dwelling units. 111104 basic sanitation units and development of 78714 plots.

Introduction of cheap construction material

1321. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new construction material is likely to be introduced, which promises to cut down the consumption of concrete by 30 per cent to 60 per cent and reduces the construction cost;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether it would be durable; and